

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2019

Members Present

Bob Kresmer, Chair
Amy Porterfield
Ted Chittenden
Nathan Pullen
Bea Shapiro
Jim LaMay
Ed Gervasoni

Members Absent

Allan Curry

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

Call to Order and Introductions

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm in the RSA Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of February 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Ted Chittenden moved to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Amy Porterfield seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

SBVID Staff Training Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated that he, Amy Porterfield and Jim LaMay met with Kristen Mackey and Sue Kay Kneifel to discuss the training for Services for the Blind Visually Impaired and Deaf (SBVID) staff. Amy Porterfield stated the Policy Workgroup developed a general outline regarding the training for SBVID staff and submitted to Kristen Mackey for review. Amy Porterfield noted the council was unable to provide that training as a contract entity, although RSA could partner with other organizations to provide the training. Amy

Porterfield stated RSA expressed concern regarding council members providing the training because several council members are also vendors, although the vendors had the experience providing that training. Amy Porterfield stated that RSA asked workgroup members to review an online module training and compare the items included. Amy Porterfield stated the workgroup recommended that RSA consider training through YTAC, or other Federal organizations. Bob Kresmer noted that the online module included more medical information. Amy Porterfield stated that a lot of training focused on low vision and eye conditions, which was good information, although the information did not indicate how an individual functioned or would become job ready. Bob Kresmer stated that RSA also recommended that counselors take courses through Hadley. Amy Porterfield stated that Hadley also offered medical information and did not indicate how an individual should apply the information. Bob Kresmer stated the workgroup suggested that counselors undergo blindness immersion training and attend the in state comprehensive services centers. Mr. Kresmer noted that RSA was receptive to the suggestion, although due to a reduced number of counselors, the staff would need to alternate training. Ted Chittenden inquired whether RSA intended to use the suggested SBVID staff training for counselors and staff. Amy Porterfield stated the SBVID staff training was developed to train new staff and noted that RSA asked the workgroup to compare the draft outline to the online modules.

Bob Kresmer stated the Policy Workgroup also discussed the summer Youth Transition Program, which had been delayed. Bob Kresmer stated that stakeholders met with Sue Kay Kneifel to discuss how to get students through the paperwork and to be accepted prior to the summer Youth Transition Program. Bob Kresmer stated that some counselors felt that blind or visually impaired students did not qualify for the summer program, or they were placed in Priority 2 and were then on the wait list. Bob Kresmer stated that Sue Kay Kneifel had been moving the student paperwork quickly to ensure that students would be eligible to participate in the summer Youth Transition Program. Bob Kresmer noted that in previous years, approximately 60 students applied for the program, and the numbers were down considerably. Bob Kresmer stated that SBVID offered an individual the supervisor position in Tucson, although that individual turned down the position, and the recruitment process had to start over. Bob Kresmer added that Kristen Mackey had intended the SBVID Program Manager position to be posted by the end of April, although the position had not gone through HR for approval yet. He noted that RSA hoped the position would be posted by mid-May. Ted Chittenden inquired whether part of the difficulty with the summer Youth Transition Program stemmed from the requirement that a portion of funds needed to go towards Transition services. Bob Kresmer stated that Sue Kay Kneifel was committed to making students eligible for

the summer Youth Transition Program. Amy Porterfield stated that students were not made eligible for several reasons. Ms. Porterfield noted that the parents and students were not familiar with the process, therefore, the staff would be required to work closely with the families and follow up to ensure the paperwork was submitted. Bob Kresmer stated that RSA would review the system and would identify methods to make the process more efficient.

GCBVI Policy and Legislative Discussion

Ed Gervasoni stated Deaf-Blind Issues Committee was informed that there were some issues with the Support Services Provider (SSP) licensing law that indicated the services that SSPs could offer. Mr. Gervasoni stated that SSPs were not allowed to interpret or copy sign or provide transportation in their own vehicles. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ACDHH) was aware of the issue. Ed Gervasoni stated the ACDHH was working with the Attorney General's Office to identify a resolution. Ed Gervasoni noted that the ACDHH did not want to violate the law. Amy Porterfield inquired regarding the language surrounding SSP services and communication. Ed Gervasoni stated the ACDHH and the Attorney General's Office were reviewing the current policy. Mr. Gervasoni stated the Deaf-Blind Issue Committee was supporting the ACDHH in their efforts and he would request an update from the agency.

Bob Kresmer stated his understanding that Congressman O' Halleran had taken a stand regarding vending rest stops. Nathan Pullen stated that Mr. O'Halleran was sponsoring a bill for the commercialization of state highway rest stop areas. Nathan Pullen stated if those rest stops were to become commercialized, small businesses and individuals such as Business Enterprise Program (BEP) vendors could be affected. Nathan Pullen stated that several BEP operators contacted Mr. O' Halleran's office expressing their concern. Mr. Pullen stated that he received a response from Mr. O' Halleran, who indicated that he was in favor of providing states with tools that allow them to create alternate funding, but he would not support the jeopardization of small businesses. Nathan Pullen stated he anticipated that blindness consumer groups would provide push back nationwide. He noted that he would be in Washington D.C., and he hoped to be able to meet with Mr. O' Halleran. Bob Kresmer stated the Governor had indicated his interest in privatizing the rest stops, therefore the GCBVI could not advocate for BEP vendors. Amy Porterfield stated the Governor's Office had made it clear what the Governor would support. Ms. Porterfield stated that as a consumer, she had suggested the Arizona Participating Operators Commission (APOC) seek outside support. Amy Porterfield stated that DES would be unable to provide advocacy for the issue. Bob Kresmer stated that

individuals could not advocate on behalf of the council but could raise concerns as part of consumer groups or as community members.

GCBVI Membership Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated that council members interviewed Terri Hedgpeth, who had applied for council membership, and would be put forward at the next GCBVI Full Council meeting. Bob Kresmer stated the council also received applications from Mike Bailey, who would likely fill a Blinded Veteran's Association (BVA) representation, and David Steinmetz, who could fill a General Community member representation. Bob Kresmer inquired whether John McCann still intended to apply for the Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB) representation. Ted Chittenden stated that John McCann still intended to apply, although he had some difficulties completing the application. Bea Shapiro suggested the Graphics and Design Unit review the council application for accessibility.

Bob Kresmer inquired whether any Executive Committee members would be willing to interview Mike Bailey and David Steinmetz as potential council members. Ed Gervasoni, Bea Shapiro, and Nathan Pullen agreed to interview the potential council members. Bob Kresmer stated that he would also be willing to interview potential council members. Amy Porterfield stated that only 2 members needed to interview potential council members. Bob Kresmer stated that Lindsey Powers would schedule the interviews with the potential members and the Executive Committee members.

Agenda Items and Date for Next Meeting

Jim LaMay inquired whether the Executive Committee would have the opportunity to discuss the GCBVI Strategic Plan. Bob Kresmer stated the Executive Committee could discuss the Strategic Plan at the next meeting in April. Mr. Kresmer inquired whether a workgroup would like to revise the GCBVI Strategic Plan. Jim LaMay stated that some tasks were assigned to certain committees and lead committees, and the other committees had to wait for guidance from the lead committees. Amy Porterfield stated the council developed a great Strategic Plan, although the accountability process was complex. Ms. Porterfield stated a workgroup could easily revise the Strategic Plan to assist in completing the tasks. Bob Kresmer stated he would develop a workgroup to revise the council Strategic Plan and present to the council.

The next meeting date of the Executive Committee would be determined. Agenda items are as follows:

- Policy and Legislative Discussion
- GCBVI Membership Discussion
- Strategic Plan Discussion

Announcements

Bob Kresmer stated that he received an email from Dan Martinez requesting the Assistive Technology (AT) and Education Committee let the Vision rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo (VRATE) Board know about the committee's presentations.

Bob Kresmer announced that the Department of Economic Security (DES) Public Information Office developed a video featuring Kristen Mackey, which would be played at the upcoming GCBVI Full Council meeting.

Ted Chittenden announced that the Public Information Committee would be developing a comprehensive GCBVI Annual Report, and he would be requesting reports from the committee Chairs by June 30, 2019.

Public Comment

A call to the public was made with no responses forthcoming.

Adjournment of Meeting

Amy Porterfield moved to adjourn the meeting. Ted Chittenden seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 pm.